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ISSUE 628 JUNE 20-JULY 4, 2019

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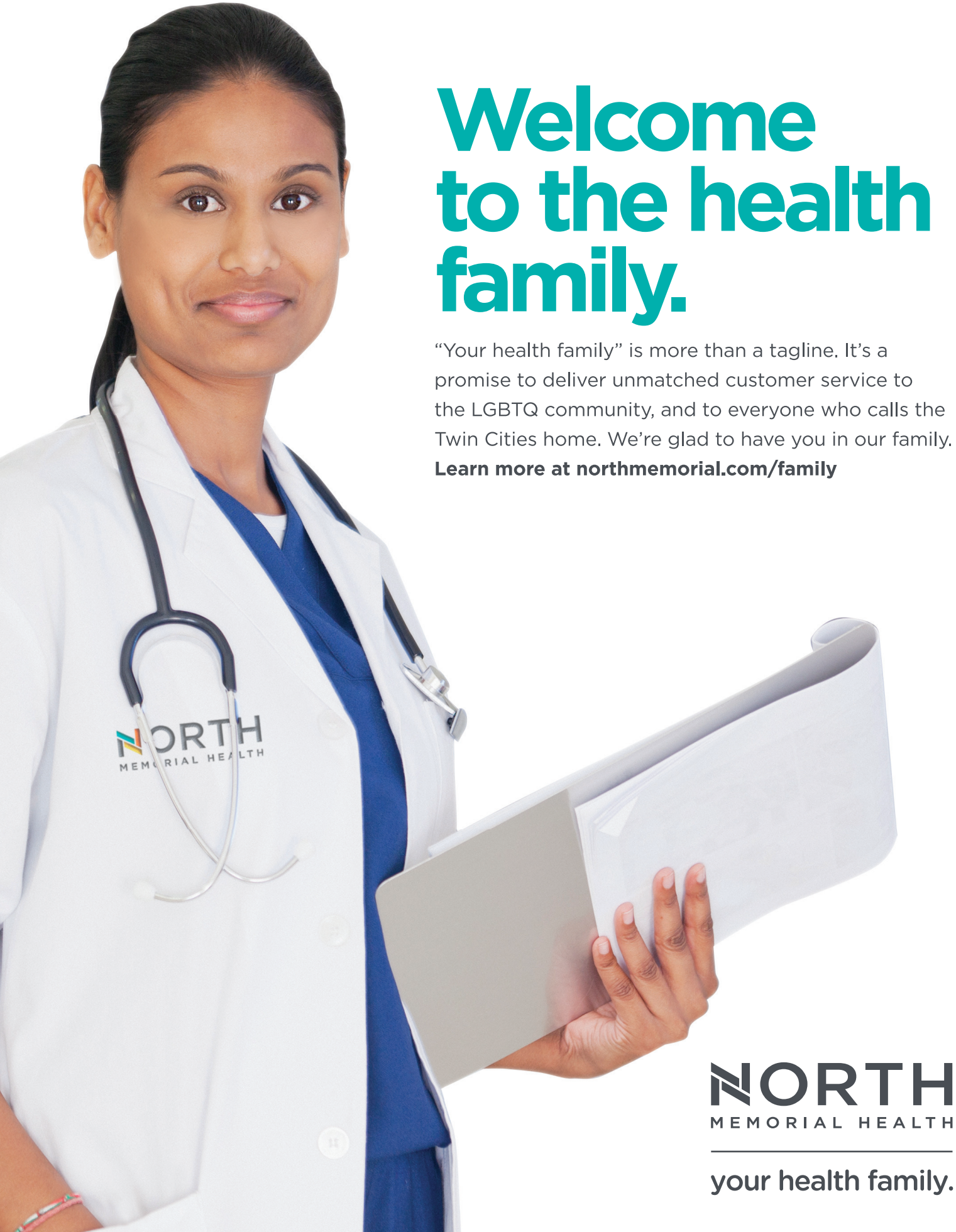
ON THE COVER

Jack Kalvser and Cole Radermacher are queer piercers working at Leviticus Tattoo & Piercing in Minneapolis.
Photo by Mike Hnida



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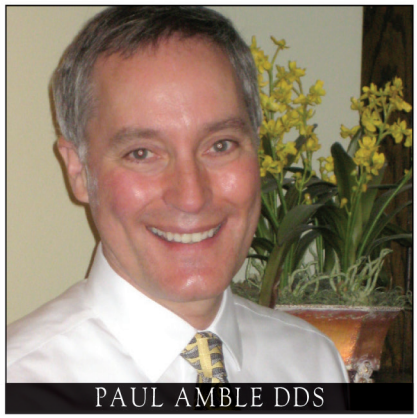

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FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

It's Time To Party

Oh, happy day! The weekend we've all been waiting for is finally here: Pride Weekend!

As the entire nation celebrates both Pride Month and the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, the Twin Cities is ready for its own slice of the celebration as we gear up for all of the parties, events, celebrations, parades, and, of course, drag brunches that come with this wonderful weekend.

So join us, fair and fierce readers, as we give you the 411 on some of the amazing happenings in town with our Pride Weekend What To Do guide, whether they're on the dance floor, on the streets, or on the rooftops. And if you're Minnesotan but don't live in the Twin Cities metro, we have a special guide for some of the gay hootenannies across the state and even in our neighboring states!

Of course, as we celebrate Pride, we continue to celebrate the amazing folks in our community. We get to know Jack Kalvser and Cole Radermacher, two top-notch queer piercers at Leviticus Tattoo & Piercing; we learn about the new clinic for trans and gender diverse children at Children's Minnesota; we take a lap with the Minnesota Ice Swim Club; we bare all with the clothing-optional campground known as Two Creeks; and we meet up with The Black Hart, the successor to the legendary Town House gay bar in St. Paul.

We also have not one but TWO travel pieces from Mike Marcotte and Carla Waldemar, and best of all, this issue features the third and final entry of *Lavender's* Stonewall Retrospective series.

We're thrilled to be able to share this momentous month with you, our rainbow community. As we sashay our butts off this weekend, always remember and cherish those who came before us to make our celebration of Pride possible in the first place. So have fun, stay hydrated, dance 'til you can't, and, of course: Happy Pride! ▮

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Hanging in the Balance

I would wager that after baby's first "Mama!" or "Daddy!", its first fully-formed sentence, observing his cute sister cadging a second cookie or his older brother flaunting his new two-wheeler is, "That's not fair!"

Morality is innate, not learned, according to psychologist Paul Bloom (*Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil*) along with compassion, empathy, and a burgeoning sense of fairness. Initially, "fairness pretty much reduces to equality," later becoming more nuanced, as the individual accepts that one who has worked harder or longer may merit a larger share.

We're not alone; other species also understand the concept of "fairness", as primatologist Frans de Waal showed in an experiment with capuchin monkeys. Seated in pairs and divided by a mesh barrier, the animals performed a task for which they were rewarded. At first, each was given cucumber bits and each performed rapidly and well. However, when one was given cucumber and saw its neighbor being given a more prized grape, the cucumber recipient responded more grudgingly or went on strike. After using other variations, it was clear that the cucumber capuchins judged their rewards to be unfair.

The cucumber/grape experiment did not test for empathy, but the trait was displayed in mice. One mouse was confined in a clear, narrow tube inside a cage with a non-confined mouse and some food. The second mouse was concerned about the distress of the first, and worked to figure out how to unlatch the tube and free its fellow, even leaving it a small portion of the food.

While these examples are heartening, they are not always seen in real—or at least human—life. If we are all hard-wired to recognize fairness and to avoid injustice, whence come those individuals for whom the answer to "How much?" is "All of it," and for those who take pleasure in inflicting harm or hardship on their fellows? Nature or nurture? Wiring glitches?

Are there rogue mice eager to gorge themselves while taunting their trapped, hungry cage-mate? Why does one human delight in inflicting pain while another risks his safety to help? Despite optimistic illustrations, empathy seems to be getting short shrift, lately. Will the Have-nots' last, plaintive words to the Haves be a plaintive, "But that's not fair!" ▮

FLANNELWOOD

www.redhen.com

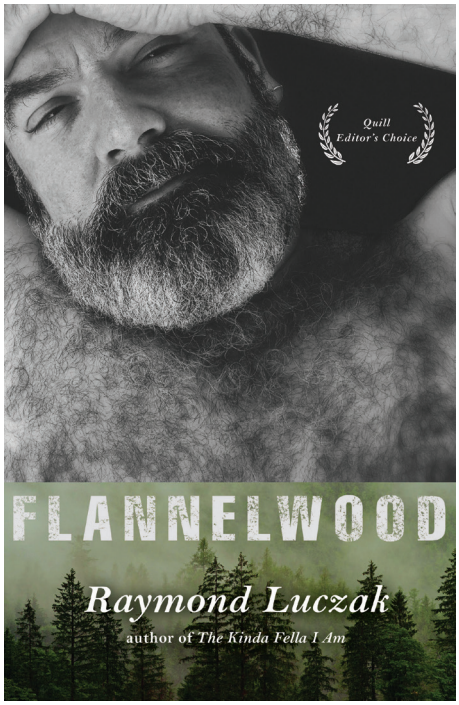
Raymond Luczak rates as a superlative writer of gay content filtered through a rich and learned imagination. Some know him as the editor of some marvelous queer lit anthologies; others as a great fiction writer who draws from personal experience, the likes of which only a courageous and adventurous gay man can. His latest novel, *Flannelwood*, has received some raves. It's about a 40-year-old barista and a daddy hunk and disabled factory worker who meet at an OctoBear Dance.

Luczak shares, "The book was inspired by how a long-distance relationship of mine ended. He refused to explain why he felt it wouldn't work out, demanding that I say we'd mutually agreed to end it and that 'it simply didn't work out.' To this day, I am not sure why he chose to break up with me. I was really in love with him. It was very hard on me because there was no sense of closure. What had I done wrong? For about eight months afterward I didn't allow myself to feel anger about what happened, but when I did, boy did I feel a lot of rage. Somehow in the heat of that rage, I wrote the first draft of *Flannelwood*. It became my way of seeking potential answers as well as closure on that situation."

GUYS AND DOLLS

Through Aug. 25
Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis
612-377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

It is sometimes said that musicals are the romantic religion of gay men and straight women. The yearning for the love of the ideal man surely fuels that predilection. Even if the guys are rough around the edges, that one special something can shoot through and simply undo us. Damned men! Can't live with 'em! Can't live without 'em! Yes, lets face it: that's the not-so-subconscious reason so many of us are so hooked on musicals. Admit it, didn't you just ache for the strength and masculine beauty of Christopher Plummer as Captain Von Trapp (I did) or didn't you want to dote on Tevye (I did), a nurturing masculine figure like a favorite uncle you could go to explain those things that you knew that only an earthy masculine pillar of strength could enlighten you on? Such men and representations of them are spiritual tonic. And of course they're all fantasy. But fantasy can assist us in discovering what we want in another intimate partner. And there's something to be said for that.



Flannelwood. Photo courtesy of Red Hen Press

If you adore tough guys, and you know you do, even if they don't vote the same way you do, then you'd better rock your boat and sail over to the Guthrie to catch their big summer musical production of *Guys and Dolls*directed by Kent Gash. Taken from stories and characters by Damon Runyon, the musical's book writers Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows seize the spirit of the urban jungle and the yearning for love beneath its rough exterior. Frank Loesser's tunes reverberate as some of the most iconic of Broadway's songbook: "Luck Be A Lady", "If I Were a Bell", and "(I Love You) A Bushel and A Peck". Songs that also went on to be reprised by some of the greatest singers of the 20th century, like Doris Day, Frank Sinatra, and Seal. That's right. Seal. His rendition of "Luck Be a Lady" is out of sight.

What makes a *Guys and Dolls* revival in 2019 so timely, is its irrepressible optimism in the face of the rugged side of city life. It doesn't go to the dark places of the film noir that the audience of the early 1950s—the time of its first colossal Broadway run—would have automatically apprehended. It showed a brighter, more hopeful side. That doesn't make *Guys and Dolls* naive in the slightest. But because it lives within a noirish context that had been flourishing since the 1930s in films and pulp fiction, its motifs were familiar across the spectrum. That said, you have no need to be a film noir buff to relish it and share the joy. But if you want a few movie titles to deepen your appreciation, not to mention, have a great time watching, you can check out John Huston's *The Asphalt Jungle* (yes, that was the splendid Anjelica's dad) released in 1950, the same year *Guys and Dolls* opened on the Great White Way. Or there's Billy Wilder's *Double Indeminity* with a dazzler turn by Barbara Stanwyck or, talk about the ideal man, Robert Mitchum in *Out of the Past*.

Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant. Photo by Petronella J. Ytsma

Continued on page 14

A TIP FROM A
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JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP SPARKLING JUNIOR TALENT PAGEANT

Through July 28
Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul
651-291-7005
www.parksquaretheatre.org

Playwright-composer Keith Hovis taps into how we get stuck in the past. In his new musical, *Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant*, he relates how so many of us cannot let go of a breakdown in later childhood or youth. Hovis says, "At core, *Jefferson Township* is about finding your way when you've hit an age where you're told you should already have a plan in place. It's about going home: that place where you grew up and helped shape your identity and values, and suddenly realizing you feel like an outsider in your own community. It's about realizing that success and happiness come in many forms, and sometimes you need to open yourself up to possibilities you never considered before."

Laura Leffler is admired for her direction and performances of ancient classic adaptations of Aeschylus and Sophocles for Savage Umbrella.

To Let Go And Fall. Photo by Allen Weeks

However, here's a chance for the gifted theater artist to attune to the current day and the problem that Hovis speaks of. She says, "*Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant* is an irreverent musical comedy—think a mix of the musicals *Avenue Q, Heathers,* and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Alongside that, as we've been developing the show, it's been really important to Keith Hovis, the writer/composer, the cast and to me, to try and present these characters with authenticity. This means building in more backstory and personal history. For instance, we have Val, who's the current, reigning pageant queen. In the original version, she is biting and funny, but we wanted to show what was behind that persona. Leslie Vincent, the woman playing Val, is bisexual. So it was important to her—and to Keith and I, we're both queer—we all wanted to allow queerness to live in this small town of Jefferson. So now Val is dealing with being closeted in a small town, and the loss of a relationship, which is where some of her edge and her bite comes from. Our hometowns, or whatever community we grow up in, shape us in so many different ways, both good and bad. And one of the aspects we explore is reconciling the love you have for your community, even if you still feel like you don't fully belong at times. It's been really rewarding to be able to bring a lot of our own lived experiences to the piece. Which is still dark and funny, but now has even more heart at its core."

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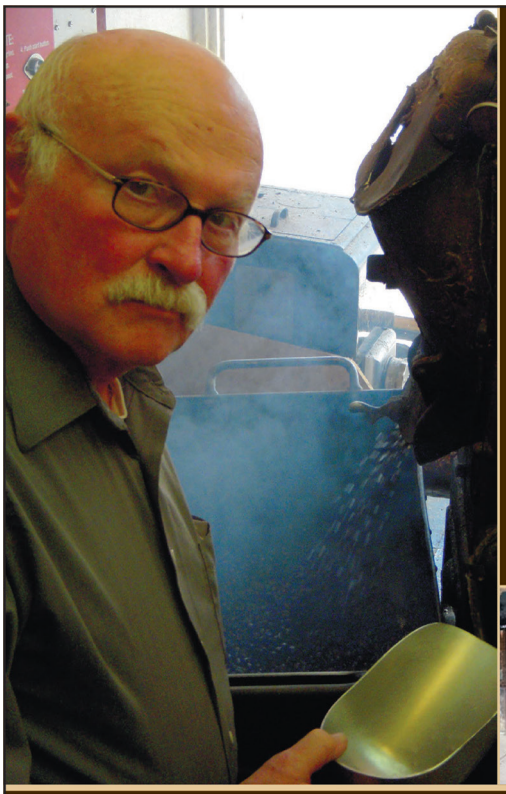

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TO LET GO AND FALL

Through June 30
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612-339-3003
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Experimental composer John Cage and experimental choreographer Merce Cunningham loom as two of the most innovative figures in 20th century performing arts. Gay men both, they were born half a century and then some before Stonewall. They also shattered the norms of what was conventionally thought of as music and dance. It comes as no surprise that they shattered the norms of what at the time were held up as conventional relationships as well.

Love letters sent between these two legends provided inspiration for one of the Twin Cities' and the nation's most dynamic young playwrights, Harrison David Rivers. Last year, Rivers struck gold twice. He gave us a stunning interracial gay love story, *This Bitter Earth*, staged at the Penumbra Theatre. As well as the book for *Five Points*, the wonderful Civil War-era musical that delved into race relations staged by Theater Latte Da.

Rivers's newest piece, *To Let Go and Fall*, also produced by Latte Da, is where you can feel the spirit of Cage and Cunningham channeled through two dancers played by Conner Horak and Da'Rius Malone. Six actors of different colors play three generations of gay men in unison with the dancers. As you might imagine, since it spans a good space of time in the last century, the dreaded AIDS virus enters the men's shared reality. *To Let Go and Fall* is clearly connected by the shared burden and pain of gay men across generations.

Harrison David Rivers reflects that "as a writer I find that I return again and again to the same themes, images and ideas. I call them my 'preoccupations'—music and dance, intimacy, images and ideas. *To Let Go and Fall*might just be the most 'me' play I've written." Original music by Jacqueline Ultan and Michelle Kinney, the renowned Jelloslave cellists, accompanies the production directed by Sherri Eden Barber. Choreography by Penelope Freeh.

QUEERING THE TAROT

www.cassandra-snow.com
www.amazon.com

Cassandra Snow is among the most accomplished makers of queer theater in the Twin Cities, so you can just imagine, from that vantage point alone, she probably has a lot to say about spirituality that is worthwhile. You have the opportunity to mine her insights in her new book that re-thinks an enduring, albeit sometimes controversial, spiritual practice: The Tarot. Snow says, "*Queering the Tarot* is a great resource for anyone who wants to learn to read tarot in an inclusive LGBTQ+ way. For more seasoned tarot card readers, this book will help you re-examine and deepen your knowledge of the cards. *Queering the Tarot* is about presenting an alternative viewpoint to the tarot cards that our community has loved for decades and are now trendy. It's also about collective healing and liberation. In addition to the book's focus on tarot, personal storytelling and (consensually used) client anecdotes will inspire you to trust your gut and live your best life." ▮

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TRAVEL | BY MIKE MARCOTTE | PHOTOS BY MIKE MARCOTTE

The view from the Sandia Peak Tramway.

Unearthing The 'Land Of Enchantment'

I have an extensive list of destinations I want to visit. Japan is towards the top. I haven't made it to New Orleans yet. When coworkers and friends rave about their adventures, I pull out my phone and add those places, too.

I recently found myself in an airport of a city that wasn't on my list.

I know people who have lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They *like* it. But I haven't heard anyone *rave* about it. That was until I entered the city. It's like residents are keeping a secret they want to blurt out, but they don't want too many people to hear about it at once. So, I turned this trip into an investigation, mostly because I feel like need to share what is going on there.

Albuquerque, with a population of about 558,000 residents, is the balance between the wilderness and a bustling metropolis. There's plenty to do outdoors, but your phone still gets service. You don't have to make your own food. In fact, you shouldn't—there are some really good restaurants. At the same time, traffic isn't an issue and everything you need is less than 20 minutes away.

Because of its balance, this guide to "Burque" is divided into two main parts: what you can discover outdoors and what "city-like" offerings you should check out.

EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS IN NEW MEXICO

The state of New Mexico is nicknamed the "Land of Enchantment" because of its scenic beauty. Even if you don't thrive while on a hike, you will want to explore these stops.

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www.sandiapeak.com

I have gone on the aerial tramway in Palm Springs, but Albuquerque's Sandia Peak Tramway is ten times better. Located about 20 minutes from downtown Albuquerque, the 15-minute ride carries you 2.7 miles over gorgeous terrain, ending at an elevation of over 10,000 feet. A staff member rides along with you, answering questions and tossing in tidbits along the way. The view from the top is breathtaking. I timed out my visit so that it would take place during sunset, and it was well worth it, despite the chilly temperatures at the top. If you go during the day, plan some extra time to explore the 11,000 square-foot National Forest that awaits. This was the best thing I did during my trip and it is a can't-miss.

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

6001 Unser Blvd. NW, Albuquerque
www.nps.gov/petr

Spanning 17 miles on the western side of Albuquerque, the Petroglyph National Monument protects designs and symbols carved into volcanic rock by Native Americans and the Spanish anywhere from 400 to 700 years ago. I don't consider myself an outdoorsy guy, so I enjoyed hearing the trails have a wide array in lengths, with the shortest coming in at 15 minutes and the longest clocking in at a couple hours. A morning walk through here is a great way to start your day.

Don't miss the park of bomber planes, missiles and bombs at The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History.

ALBUQUERQUE'S 'BIG CITY' OFFERINGS

Albuquerque has plenty of cultural and social activities.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE & HISTORY

601 Eubank Blvd SE, Albuquerque
www.nuclearmuseum.org

The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History is intriguing, and honestly, quite special. The history lesson showcasing the development of the atomic bomb is portrayed much better here than it was in high school history class. In July 1945, the first atomic device was tested in the New Mexico desert, which some say changed the world forever. Outside the Museum, you can get up close to bomber planer, missiles and bombs.

BOW & ARROW BREWING CO.

608 McKnight Ave. NW, Albuquerque
www.bowandarrowbrewing.com

Located near downtown Albuquerque, Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. is lesbian owned-and-operated. Founder Shyla Shepard was born and raised on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota, where she is a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes. Co-founder Missy Begay is an Albuquerque-native and was raised on the Navajo Nation. With their Native American heritage, Bow & Arrow is the first brewery in the United States owned by Native American women, which is impressive in an industry that is typically dominated by males. Before you stop by, check out their website for when various gastropub fare and food trucks will be available.

BOSQUE BREWING CO.

5 locations in New Mexico, including 2 in Albuquerque

One of the five rooms at Frontier Restaurant.

www.bosquebrewing.com

Albuquerque's microbrewery industry is really taking off, and you can see that through Bosque Brewing Co. Since opening in 2012, they have expanded to five locations in New Mexico, serving beer, along with quite the food menu. Their beers have received national acclaim: Bosque Brewing's Acequia Wet Hop IPA has taken home mulitple awards from the Great American Beer Festival.

FRONTIER RESTAURANT

2400 Central Ave. SE, Albuquerque
www.frontierrestaurant.com

The Frontier, across from the University of New Mexico campus, has been an institution since 1971. Don't be alarmed if you discover a line at this fast casual restaurant; it will move quickly. Make sure to order something with roasted green chiles on it.

Continued on page 20

Order something with green chiles at the Frontier, an Albuquerque staple since 1971.

WHEN TO GO, GETTING AROUND, AND WHERE TO STAY

On average, Albuquerque gets 310 days of sunshine a year. You might think that the heat will be too much to handle in the summer, but according to the city's visitor's bureau, Visit Albuquerque, high temperatures in June, July and August range from 85 to 95 degrees. And there's no humidity.

However, the best time to visit is the fall. Held every year in October, Albuquerque's International Balloon Fiesta offers gorgeous views of hot air balloons taking flight. The city is the hot air ballooning capital of the world.

You will definitely need a car or rely on car share services like Lyft or Uber to get around ABQ. The city is spread out and it does not have a visitor-friendly public transportation system.

I stayed at Los Poblanos, a truly delightful historic inn located on 25 acres in Albuquerque. The 50 rooms are situated on an organic farm as well, with chickens, alpacas and fields of lavender surrounding you. A Farm Shop sells the items grown right there on the property. CAMPO, the restaurant at Los Poblanos, serves a farm-to-fork seasonal menu. *Food & Wine* named it the best breakfast in New Mexico. They also serve dinner Wednesday to Sunday nights, but make sure to make a reservation in advance if you want a table.

ALBUQUERQUE'S GLBT COMMUNITY

The State of New Mexico legalized gay marriage in 2013. However, I noticed a minimal gay community. From my research, I found only three GLBT-focused bars, and you need to be a member to attend one. I asked guys on Scruff and Grindr if it's worth my time to visit them during my trip, and I didn't hear a single guy say yes.

Instead, look at Albuquerque as an escape. Being gay is just one part of your identity. Albuquerque doesn't demand that you have the perfect bronzed body or the cutest swimsuit. You don't need to spend 35 minutes styling your hair before you go outside. It's a city where you can discover something new and find your balance. And you can connect with it in the Land of Enchantment.

Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. is the first brewery in the United States owned by Native American women.

This trip was planned with the help of Visit Albuquerque. Visit them online at www.visitalbuquerque.org

Mike Marcotte is KSTP-TV's Local Guy About Town. You can watch him on Twin Cities Live. He shares more of his travel guides on his website, www.givemethemike.com. ▮

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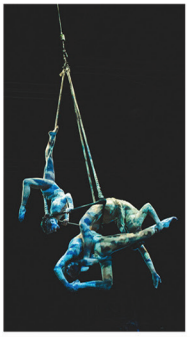

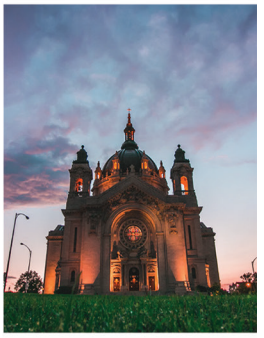

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Meet Carter Averbeck, the brains behind the interior design company Omforme; a man who says he's "continually seeking the fantastic in the mundane," while never shying away from bold color and daring design, because "What is life if you can't inspire others by stepping out of the safety zone?" He's a furniture guru, an artist extrordinaire and an organic jellybean addict.

Is it any wonder he chooses our eyewear?

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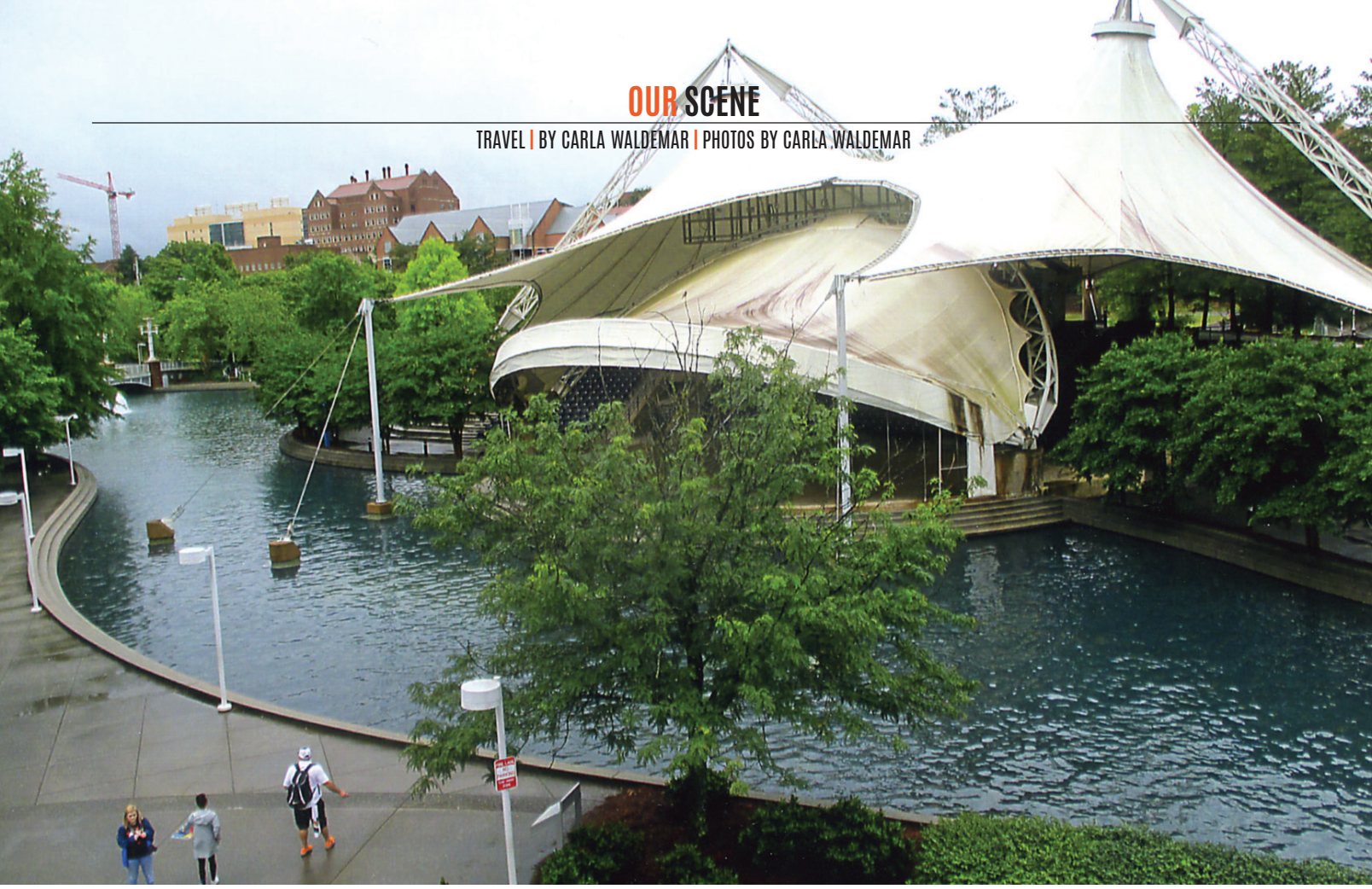
TRAVEL | BY CARLA WALDEMAR | PHOTOS BY CARLA WALDEMAR



One heck of a view from the 28-story Sunsphere, originally erected for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville.

Tale of Two Cities, Tennessee Style

When the railroad depot was built, Chattanooga choo-choo'd into its golden era. Later, as train travel dwindled, so did the city's charms. During the '80s, recalls a local booster, "The downtown was shabby. So was the riverfront." Lights went out on Broad Street.

Today they've revived their twinkle. Thank the fish.

A city father chanced to visit San Diego's famed aquarium and wondered, "Why not?" He parlayed his buddies into fundraising for a riverside aquarium of their own, to spur tourism—Oh, and while we're at it, boys, why not dream bigger? So simultaneously a hometown art museum—The Hunter—was expanded to become world-class. Broad Street was spruced up. Destination restaurants leased real estate, a captivating River Walk was built, and the town stated punching above its weight as a vacation destination.

Folks flock from far and wide, as they've done since the outset, to Ruby Falls, discovered by accident 90 years ago, as star of a vast underground cave network in which guides led tourists through thickets of stalactites and stalagmites and curtains of stone drapery, climaxing in an underground rotunda spliced by an amazing waterfall. Cue the oohs and aahs.

Add that landmark aquarium—a building each for freshwater and ocean fish—and aside it, a stairway to the river engraved with the sad legend of the Cherokee Indians' Trail of Tears in 1839. Above it, a stroll-worthy bridge leads to the boho sector of the city. Here, the blocks lining Frazier Avenue are home to shopping ops like Locals Only (sassy regional gifts like signboards claiming Mama Tried to a BBQ set and Southern breakfast kits). Works of 30 artists fill In-Town Gallery. Blue Skies sells pins with attitude (Unemployed Philosopher) and magnetic poetry kits (Svenska and Yiddish included). Used everything-you-want (books, vinyl, CDs, collectors' toys, road maps) abounds in Winder Binder.

As you stroll its sidewalks, marked with dance steps (Mambo to

A delicious beer flight at Sweet P's Downtown Dine Barbecue.

Hokey Pokey), quench your thirst at Beast & Barrel, a gastro-smokehouse; hit Base Camp for comfort hits like meatloaf, pot roast and mac and cheese; and seek sweet treats at Julie Darling Donuts ("Home of the donut sundae"). No Baked beckons as a scoop shop devoted to cookie dough.

Only-in-Chattanooga museums flourish, too—one commemorating the life of Bessie Smith, the local "Empress of the Blues," mentored by Ma Rainey; another showcases—wait for it—tow trucks. Yet another, carrousels.

But if there's only time or stamina for one, make it Songbirds. It's the Vatican, the Louvre, the Mecca of guitars, with 525 class-act instruments, donated by an anonymous collector who happens to be a billionaire—the Vault Room alone holds dozens of models, each "way over six figures," recounts guide Irv Bernes, a New Yorker who moved here for his dream job. He walks visitors through the decades—50s, 60s, 70s—highlighting innovations (solid models to electrics to custom colors).

The jukebox of City Café Diner—frozen in the red-vinyl Fifties—doesn't compare, musically, but their biscuits and gravy (served 24 yours) make the cut. Even better, the down-home fare at Maple Street Biscuits, where those ultra-fluffy rounds come piled with fried chicken, bacon and cheese, as well as two styles of country gravy. I spooned up both like ice cream.

Get your Moon Pies at Broad Street's General Store. The iconic spongy cookies sandwich yummy fillings like classic marshmallow and trendy salted caramel. Mainstreet Meats—a butcher shop-cum-café—does a dynamite Reuben, best-selling turkey sandwich and retro meatloaf, as well as deepfried potato salad. (Any edible foodstuff, and then some, comes "fried, refried and then deep fried," as a culinary pro explained.)

The same owner operates Easy Bistro, where he applies Appalachian touches to French staples. New kid on the scene is Gillers Grill, where starters run from devilled eggs to shrimp risotto. Oh, you want oysters? Head to the waterside River Café. Fab avo toast, too.

For information, visit www.Chattanoogacvb.com.

Knoxville fooled the skeptics. "Who'd want to visit this scruffy little city?" those pompous East Coast papers wondered editorially when the Tennessee city was chosen to host the 1982 World's Fair.

Well, I, for one. I'm no Eastern fool. I soared to the viewing platform atop the 26-story Sunsphere, erected to anchor the exposition. Far below glitters the Tennessee Theater of 1928, a glam Moorish Revival movie palace that today hosts concerts and operas, as well as films. And over there, across the lazy river, gleams the Museum of Contemporary Art with its lobby-wide glass installation and once-controversial "History of

Chattanooga's Hunter Museum of Art boasts a number of amazing sculptures.

Tennessee" mural, enraging local bigots by portraying Blacks, and enraging Blacks by their depiction as happy-go-lucky minstrel types.

Gay Street—Knoxville's main street and predictably the site of its Pride Parade—is home to classic retailers like Mast General Store (penny candy to prom dresses); Maple Hall (Bourbon with your bowling); and Phoenix Pharmacy, healing ills with ice cream cones and sundaes taller than small children.

It's also home to East Tennessee History Center, telling the story of a divided state. While Tennessee seceded in the Civil War, its population split 50/50—even right down family lines—and supported an all-female Confederacy Home Guard. It also became the first Southern state to rejoin the Union after 1865.

The story continues with the dust-bowl drama of the TVA; the secret Manhattan Project at Oak Ridge, where atom bomb research was underway; and an exhibit devoted to mountain music. "Call Me Hillbilly" reports that "playing a banjo was as natural as talking." Yet when Tennessee Ernie tried for a radio gig, he was turned down because, intoned a sponsor, "that jump-up-and-down music won't sell groceries." Never mind. At noon daily WDVX broadcasts live music from downtown's Visitors Center—and admission's free. So are the artists' shows at the Emporium, where the First Friday crowds number close to 2,500.

Continued on page 20

A train in Chattanooga's vintage collection at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel.

Boho types are forming a critical mass in the town's Old City, according to chef/owner Jeffrey de Alejandro, who serves Latin-flavored breakfasts at Oli Bea and soon will debut a butcher shop/deli close by. "It's like Sesame Street for grownups," he laughs, counting up neighboring eateries like Lonesome Dove, Old City Java, Good Golly Tamales and the Pretentious Beer Company.

The last one is Matthew Cumming's baby. He's at the forefront of the neighborhood renaissance with his brewery (and sassy-named brews), but he's unique in that he also blows the very glasses in which they're served. That's why friends labeled him "pretentious," but Matthew, as a master glassblower with Venetian mentors, just calls it business as usual.

For information, visit www.visitknoxville.com. ▮

PIGEON FORGE

Between these two cities looms Pigeon Forge, a kind of redneck Vegas, with 70-some showbiz attractions, plus fun stops like Ole Smoky Moonshine, "the most visited distillery in the nation," swears Johnny Baker, who offers taste-tests of more flavors than are good for you. Old Forge Distillery does the same but expands its repertoire into premier whiskey. No booze at Huck Finn's, but darned good catfish, hush puppies and fried green tomatoes. Dolly Parton herself was on hand to open Wildwood Grove, a huge expansion of her theme park here, featuring rides tame enough even for me to what appears to be a death-wish rollercoaster trek. For info, visit www.MyPigeonForge.com.

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GENERATIONS OF RESISTANCE

Pride Weekend

Pride Weekend What To Do 2019

Communion Pride Edition. Photo by Chris Tarbox

WRITTEN BY CHRIS TARBOX
PRODUCED BY BARRY LEAVITT AND CHRIS TARBOX

Twin Cities! Pride Weekend is finally here! And as usual, we have an embarrassment of riches here when it comes to amazing Pride celebrations, parties, and events. Here's but a taste of some of the effervescent events happening in the Twin Cities for Pride Weekend. Visit the venue websites for times, cover charges and more info.

JUNE 20

FIRST TIME IN DRAG SHOW W/ STACY LAYNE MATTHEWS

June 20
Honey, Minneapolis
honeympls.com

If you've ever wanted to shine in a drag show, now's your chance! Join Stacy Layne Matthews at Honey in Northeast Minneapolis, who will welcome drag neophytes for an incredible night you'll never forget.

ATON'S SMOKER

June 20
EagleBOLTbar, Minneapolis
www.eagleboltbar.com

Enjoy a good stogie every now and then? Cigar enthusiasts and newcomers alike are encouraged to stop by EagleBOLTbar, and all are encouraged to bring their own smoking materials to use and share.

LAVENDER'S PRIDE SCORE THURSDAY

June 20
LUSH, Minneapolis
Free
www.lushmpls.com

Ain't no party like a Lavender party! We kick off LUSH's Pride Weekend with our annual Pride Score Thursday event, with 35 pro, college, and recreational GLBT sports leagues and allied sports organizations celebrating all things sports and Pride!

Continued on page 28

Pride Weekend

Pride Weekend at LUSH. Image courtesy of LUSH

LUSH PRIDE WEEKEND BLOCK PARTY

June 20-23
LUSH, Minneapolis
Various prices
www.lushmpls.com

Northeast Minneapolis, get ready for one hell of a Pride celebration courtesy of the fab folks of LUSH! Aside from the June 20 Lavender Pride Score Thursday event, experience the popular #DragEvolution showcase with special guest The Only Detox! On Friday, the kickoff block party begins, with performances throughout the evening by DJ David B, Transcendence Cabaret, Melanated Menagerie, and a headlining extravaganza by Ginger Minj, Black Hearts Burlesque, and #DragRevolution!

On Saturday, sate your hunger and thirst with a Pride Brunch Buffet, a Pride Drag Brunch, and Drag Queen Bingo with Bad Karma. Later that evening, the block party continues with a Pride Edition performance of Queerdo, featuring local drag, dance and burlesque performers, hot DJ sets by DJ David B, Miss Scarlett and Leif Anderson, and a headline performance by Latrice Royale and ChiChi DeVayne.

LUSH brings the party to an epic close on Sunday, with a special Stonewall Cabaret Brunch with proceeds benefiting TransChance Health, a block party featuring ChiChi LaRue and MANCANDY (along with an 18+ Foam Party), and a Tea Dance with Kris Holliday!

Lavender's Pride Score Thursday. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Continued on page 30

호반갈비 HOBAN Korean BBQ

(612) 345-7214

2939 Hennepin Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

HobanKoreanBBQ.com

@HOBANUPTOWN

QUEENS OF THRONES

June 20-23
Gay 90's, Minneapolis
gay90s.com

The North remembers! Unleash your inner Daenerys (or Cersei) with a weekend-long Pride celebration courtesy of the Gay 90's, featuring the Miss City Of The Lakes competition on June 20; a Foam Party in the Annex and an appearance by RuPaul's Drag Race contestant Shuga Cain on June 21; and Thursday through Sunday, appearances by Tina Gee and Drag Race contestant Mercedes Iman Diamond, Ladies of Lafemme, and all the happy hour karaoke you can handle!

JUNE 21

XAVIER'S DRAGGED OUT PRIDE

June 21
The Black Hart, St. Paul
$6
www.blackhartstp.com

Prepare for a St. Paul-style drag race at The Black Hart on June 21, when Xavier's Dragged Out Pride takes over for a late night of fun and ferocity. Featured acts include Out Pride-Kings, Alexander Rox, Dexter, Xavier, and Crypt Graves. Also, free jello shots!

Bryant Lake Bowl Block Party. Photo by Eric Melzer

Continued on page 32

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www.seward.coop

MiX at Café and Bar Lurcat. Photo by Chris Tarbox

BRYANT LAKE BOWL PRIDE PARTY

June 21
Bryant Lake Bowl, Minneapolis
Free
www.bryantlakebowl.com

Hop down to the Lynlake neighborhood at Bryant Lake Bowl for an unforgettable free block party hosted by MC Foxy Tann, featuring performances by DJ Tricki Miki, Venus DeMars and All The Pretty Horses, Dykes Do Drag, and more!

SCORCH FIREBALL

June 21-23
EagleBOLTbar, Minneapolis
www.eagleboltbar.com

If you're looking for hot patios and hot eye candy for Pride Weekend, don't miss out on what EagleBOLTbar has to offer! On June 21, enjoy a 3-for-1 happy hour outside from 4 to 7 p.m.; the night of June 22 will bring Bear Bar Night, which will lead in to Aleks Buldocek and Lorenzo Flexx; and on June 23 at 4 p.m., It's Always Sunday Funday, with a beer bust and, of course, show tunes.

2019 PRIDE STAND-UP COMEDY

June 21-22
Sisyphus Brewing, Minneapolis
$20
www.sisyphusbrewing.com

Celebrate GLBT comedy at Sisyphus Brewing with an epic lineup of hilarious queer comics from in and around Minnesota. Hosted by Maggie Faris.

THE SALOON PRIDE WEEKEND BLOCK PARTY

June 21-23
The Saloon, Minneapolis
$30-75
www.saloonmn.com

If anybody's been around the block, it's The Saloon, and they ain't stopping anytime soon! All of Pride Weekend, one of downtown Minneapolis' premier gay bars will pull out all the stops with their annual Pride Weekend Block Party. On Friday, featured entertainment includes Brandon Stansell, Pop Rocks, and Keri Hilson, with a closing set by DJ Mikey; Saturday will boast live band karaoke with Hurricane Karaoke, as well as sets by 3 Minutes To Midnight and DJ Naughty Boy; and Sunday will close out an epic weekend with performances by Boogie Wonderland, Tinashe, and DJ Leif.

PRIDE WEEKEND FIESTA

June 21-23
El Burrito, Minneapolis
elburritompls.com

Enjoy the beauty of Pride with some great food along the way! Experience eclectic live entertainment courtesy of Ladies of the Eighties Karaoke Night, Expresion Tropical, live cumbia, bachata and salsa, and a live presentation featuring Mexica Shadows.

Continued on page 34

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DJ Kris Holiday
DJ Leif Anderson & Miss Scarlett
DJ Chi Chi LaRue
Four Day PRIDE Block Party
Tickets go on sale May 20th
LUSHmpls.com

JUNE 22

RED HOT RASCALS PRIDE PERFORMANCE

June 22
The Black Hart, St. Paul
$8
www.blackhartstp.com

Twin Cities performance group Red Hot Rascals will tear it up at The Black Hart with their signature blend of drag, dance, circus, and burlesque!

WOMAN'S CLUB PRIDE DANCE

June 22
The Woman's Club, Minneapolis
$15-30
www.womansclub.org

As the song goes, girls just wanna have fun, and you can learn that firsthand at The Woman's Club's annual Pride Dance! Shake it to tunes spun by DJ Brian Engel of Hipshaker.

MIX: TOTALLY '80S PRIDE!

June 22-23
Bar Lurcat, Minneapolis
Free
lurcatminneapolis.com

If you're Priding it up in Loring Park this weekend and need to amp it up a notch, take a brisk walk over to Café and Bar Lurcat for two days of dancing, drinks, and—for the first time ever—karaoke! This free, 21+ event will whet your 1980s music appetite with classic Reagan-era tunes spun by DJs Shiek, Lenka Paris, and Sxooba!

Saloon Pride Block Party. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

JUNE 23

ARISE + SHINE

June 23
Shindig, Minneapolis
$20
www.gtcuw.org/event/arise-shine-2019

Lavender is proud to sponsor this popular pre-parade party. Enjoy a light continental breakfast, a full bar, Arise Project swag, and special guests. Tickets for this pre-parade party are more affordable than in years' past! 100 percent of ticket sales will directly impact Arise's ability to fund agencies and programs that support homeless GLBT youth here in the Twin Cities.

COMMUNION: PRIDE EDITION

June 23
The Pourhouse, Minneapolis
$10
www.intellephunk.com

If you're hoping to celebrate Pride and break a serious sweat on the dance floor, consider taking a trip to The Pourhouse in downtown Minneapolis, where you can dance to all the techno and house music you can handle in the alleyway venue from 2 to 10 p.m. Featured DJs include Cory Valentine, Sasha B Ware, Jameen, Knox, DJ Jam E.Z., and Aaron Bliss.

PRIDE IN THE SKY

June 23
Crave, Minneapolis
$12
www.eventbrite.com (Search "Pride in the Sky")

If the parade got your party juices flowing, take to the rooftop of Crave to shake your booty, with a bangin' set by DJ Izzie P. This 21+ event is first come, first serve, so get there ASAP! ▮

Queen Of Thrones. Image courtesy of Gay 90's

St. Cloud Pride. Photo courtesy of St. Cloud Pride

Pride, Midwest Style

BY CHRIS TARBOX

Pride is here! The Minnesota rainbow community has plenty to celebrate and do during this momentous season, but it's important to remember that Pride doesn't just stop with the Twin Cities. Check out some of the awesome Pride celebrations happening across Minnesota and even our neighbor states over the summer!

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PRIDE

July 13, 2019
Sullivan Lake Park
5430 7th St. NE
Columbia Heights, MN
www.facebook.com/cohipride

Image courtesy of Columbia Heights Pride

If you live in the Columbia Heights and Fridley area and wanna Pride it up, you're in luck! For the first time ever, Columbia Heights Pride and Heightsnext will present the Columbia Heights Pride Festival. This family-friendly afternoon will celebrate the GLBT community with entertainment performances, vendors, great food, and more!

FARGO-MOORHEAD PRIDE

Aug. 8-11, 2019
Fargo, ND
fmpride.com

The Gateway to the West is going to become the Gateway to the Rainbow when our bordering pals in Fargo host the annual Fargo-Moorhead Pride Festival in August. Expected to attract visitors from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and even Canada, FM Pride will feature a smorgasbord of amazing events, from Youth Pride and a Pride 5K, to a Pride Block Party and a Pride Parade.

Continued on page 38

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Mankato Pride. Photo courtesy of SCMN Pride

DULUTH-SUPERIOR PRIDE

Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 2019
Duluth, MN and Superior, WI
www.duluthsuperiorpride.com

What a beautiful time for a lakeside Pride celebration! For its 33rd year, the Duluth-Superior Pride Festival will entice both natives of Northern Minnesota and visitors alike with its annual festival at Bayfront Festival Park, a dual-venue block party at The Flame Nightclub and The Main Club, and the fantabulous Pride Parade that will route through Duluth into neighboring Superior, WI.

MANKATO PRIDEFEST

Sept. 6-7, 2019
Mankato, MN
www.scmnpride.org

Rock your Rainbow Mankato! No city is too small for Pride, and this southern Minnesota gem is raring to go for one heck of a Pride celebration, with free Queeraoke at The Loose Moose, the annual Pride Parade at Riverfront Drive, the Pride Festival at Riverfront Park, and a slammin' Pride dance party at the Morson Ario VFW. This celebration, as always, is presented by South Central Minnesota Pride.

GRAND FORKS PRIDE

Sept. 6-8, 2019
Grand Forks, ND
www.facebook.com/grandforkspride

Meanwhile in North Dakota, the city of Grand Forks will be throwing their own Pride bash in early September, and if you're a Minnesotan living in Polk County, it's just a hop, skip, and a jump away! Details on the event are yet to be announced, but if Grand Forks Prides of years' past are any indication, expect great music, amazing food, and fabulous people!

ST. CLOUD PRIDE

Sept. 20-22, 2019
St. Cloud, MN
www.stcloudpride.org

Be proud in the Cloud! St. Cloud's family-friendly rainbow celebrations will be enjoying its tenth year, featuring the Pride in the Park at Lake George/Eastman Park, followed by the St. Cloud Pride Drag Show at the River's Edge Convention Center. ▮

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Cole Radermacher and Jack Kalvser are piercers at Leviticus Tattoo & Piercing in Minneapolis.

Piercing With Pride

BY KASSIDY TARALA
PHOTOS BY MIKE HNIDA

Jack Kalvser and Cole Radermacher share their experiences as queer piercers in the Twin Cities.

At Leviticus Tattoo & Piercing, they take just as much pride in their staff as they do in their work—and rightly so. Jack Kalvser and Cole Radermacher are two piercers in the GLBT community who know how to make their clients of all walks of life and identities feel welcome and visible no matter what.

Jack Kalvser began piercing five years ago as an apprentice. The shop they started in was in a more conservative suburb, which proved difficult to live and work in as a queer, trans, non-binary body piercer.

"I had just come out as trans and was trying to gear my services toward a clientele that was—basically—mainly the queer community," Kalvser says. "I was the only openly queer body piercer (that I knew of in the city), and I wanted to be 'that piercer' for people to feel totally comfortable going to."

And now Kalvser is. Two and a half years ago, they started as a body piercer at Leviticus where they welcome everyone in an exciting, inclusive space. "I don't want the things I say or do to make people feel ostracized or hurt because they aren't able to be as visible as I am. I want to use my cool-ass job to help people feel good about themselves," they say.

Kalvser says they strive to create a warm environment where all humans feel welcome and at home. They say everyone is asked for pronouns, their legal name, as well as chosen name to avoid misgendering or dead naming anybody. "I've taken a trauma-informed body modification class as to learn how I can reduce any harm or triggers in my own day to day workspace when I'm with clients," they say.

Pride is surely celebrated at Leviticus, but it doesn't stop there. Kalvser says pride means being grateful and feeling lucky for their ability to be visible in this city and industry. "Being able to be very openly trans and queer as a parent and a person who helps to modify and decorate the people in my community and city brings me a lot of pride," they say. "Body piercing has a very long and rich queer history, and I'm very thankful and proud to be a part of its continuing story."

Like Kalvser, Cole Radermacher started as a body piercer when the opportunity arose to take an apprenticeship. Radermacher eventually joined Leviticus in August 2018 when looking for a place where he could better himself and his art—and that's exactly what he's done.

"We strive to make an all-inclusive space by wanting every single customer who comes in to be who they are and know that while in Leviticus, it's a judgment free zone," he says. "We're all humans, and we all are here to do the same thing as long as you respect every individual for who they are!"

Continued on page 42

Leviticus boasts nine tattoo artists and three piercers on their team.

Leviticus' beautiful tattoo and piercing parlor is located on the 4100 block of East Lake Street.

As a gay man, Radermacher knows how to take pride in who he is. "What pride means to me is to be who you are. If you want your face tattooed, do it. If you want a piercing, but people tell you not to… do it! Nobody should judge you for being you, and you should never be ashamed for something that makes you happy," he says.

Kalvser and Radermacher are both members of the Association of Professional Piercers (APP). Kalvser is available for appointments on a walk-in basis Friday through Monday, and Radermacher is available Tuesday through Friday. Over Pride Weekend, Leviticus is also offering ten percent of all piercing sales as donations to Reclaim, an organization dedicate to increasing mental health services to queer and trans youth.

Continued on page 44

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Leviticus offers a wide array of piercing services for affordable prices.

For more information about Kalvser, Radermacher, and the other artists of Leviticus, visit www.leviticus.com. ▮

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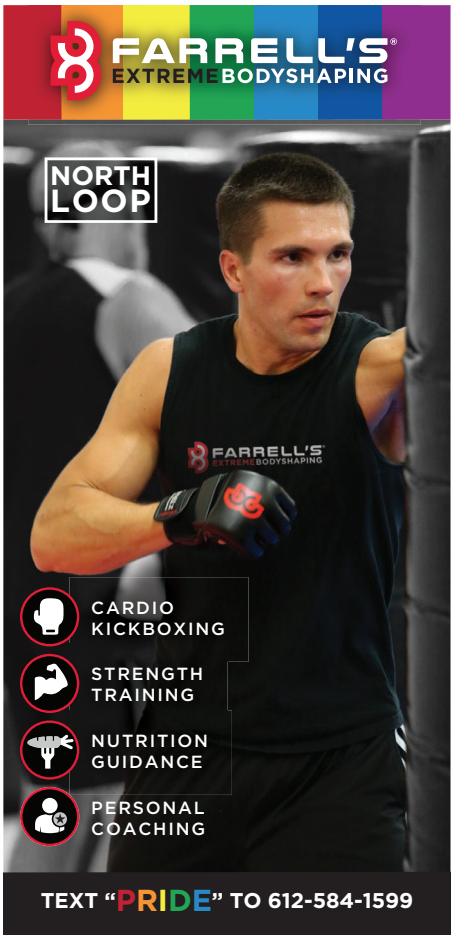

Photo by BigStock/1STunningArt

Diverse In Gender, Deserving Of Care

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Children's Minnesota offers transgender and gender diverse children the care they need and deserve with their new Gender Health program.

Children's Minnesota has long been known for its excellence in pediatric care, but it wasn't until recently that it became a leader in care for transgender and gender diverse children. In April, Children's Minnesota opened its Gender Health program to serve children and families navigating the medical and social implications of gender diversity.

In 2016, the state of Minnesota offered a statewide survey to high school students to determine how many children identify as transgender or gender diverse. The results determined that more than 20,000 high school students in Minnesota identify as such, yet there are extremely limited health care resources for them.

"Transgender and gender diverse kids are medically underserved and need help accessing care," says Dr. Angela Gopferd, pediatrician and medical director of the Gender Health program. "They experience great health disparities, so we're trying to close that gap."

Dr. Gopferd says Children's Minnesota's mission is to serve every family to help raise healthier children, and in order to really serve every family, they need to be more inclusive of GLBT children and families, which is why the Gender Health program was so necessary.

Continued on page 48

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Children's Minnesota opened its Gender Health program to serve children and families navigating the medical and social implications of gender diversity. Photo courtesy of Children's Minnesota

"The community sees us as experts in pediatric health care, so we want to be able to provide this resource for all families and gender diverse kids. They need care, and they deserve care," Dr. Gopferd says. "[The Gender Health program] helps send a message that we really value the health of gender diverse and transgender children, so other organizations will hopefully follow in our footsteps."

The Gender Health program offers a variety of services for transgender and gender diverse children and their families. These services include gender consultations for children of all ages and their families to learn more about gender and access resources, mental health assessments and referrals as needed, and a variety of medical services including puberty blockers, gender-affirming hormones, and fertility preservation consultations. They also offer children and their families guidance and support in order to navigate their medical, social, and legal needs.

Dr. Gopferd says the Gender Health program serves new patients as old as 18 years old, but they do continue caring for existing patients once they are older than 18.

"Patients older than 18 will continue with us for a while, but then we will help them transition to an adult provider that offers gender diverse and transgender health care," Dr. Gopferd says. "There are great facilities in the Twin Cities that we refer patients to for gender health programs that focus on adults. It's an easy transition from us to other family physicians that offer transgender and gender diverse health care in the Twin Cities."

Children's Minnesota does not turn away any child or family due to an inability to pay for health care services, which includes the Gender Health program. Dr. Gopferd says the Gender Health program services should be covered by insurance, so if a family has insurance, it should be applicable for any Gender Health services. For families without insurance or experiencing problems paying for Gender Health services, Dr. Gopferd says they will always work to help every family access the care they need. "I anticipate the clinic will be pretty accessible for all families," she says.

For more information about the Gender Health program's services or to schedule an appointment, visit www.childrensmn.org/genderhealth or call 612-813-7950. ▮

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Minnesota Ice is all-inclusive, allowing members of all genders and orientations. Photo courtesy of Luke Paquin

It's All Queer In The Pool

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Minnesota Ice Swim Club, the state's only GLBT masters swim team, gives Rainbow Fish some serious competition.

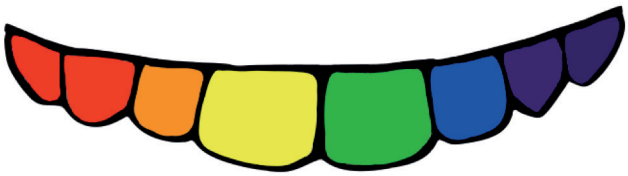
Just keep swimming, just keep swimming, just keep swimming… and that's exactly what the Minnesota Ice Swim Club has been doing for more than 25 years. The team was born as the "Minnesota Rainbow Trout" and first competed internationally at the 1994 Gay Games. Shortly after, at the 1998 IGLA in Amsterdam, the team changed its name to Minnesota Ice as a play on words of "Minnesota nice" and the cold climate.

Founder Luke Paquin says when he first moved to Minneapolis, he joined a masters swim team at the YWCA and would joke with friends on the team that they had enough members to make their own "gay" team.

"As Minnesota's only LGBTQ+ masters swim team, our mission is to provide a safe, affirming community for LGBTQ+ athletes, promoting health and fitness through swimming in the Twin Cities area. We envision to become one of the premier LGBTQ+ swim teams in the world, where all LGBTQ+ athletes are able to cultivate a life-long passion for the sport of swimming," Paquin says.

Paquin says the sports community is still largely a toxic environment for GLBT folks, especially for trans individuals who are often ineligible for participation in sports due to systematic transphobia and damaging policies in place. "It isn't just a 'nice to have' for Minnesota Ice to exist; it is still a necessity," he says.

Continued on page 50



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Minnesota Ice Swim Club is Minnesota's only GLBT masters swim team. Photo courtesy of Luke Paquin

Minnesota Ice competes on both a local and national level. Photo courtesy of Luke Paquin

Minnesota Ice competes locally, nationally, and internationally at masters swim competitions. Paquin says they are looking forward to competing in the 2022 Gay Games in Hong Kong, as well as the annual IGLA in New York this year, which coincides with World Pride and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots—meaning Minnesota Ice will have a lot to celebrate this summer.

"As a member of United States Masters Swimming (USMS), we are eligible to compete both in the local meets hosted by other USMS clubs (and Minnesota Masters Swimming, the local governing organization of USMS), as well as the national level meets run by USMS," Paquin says. "Most recently, swimmers competed at USMS Short Course Nationals in Mesa, Arizona. We are also a member of IGLA (International LGBTQ Aquatics), which is a part of the international LGBTQ swim community. There are meets hosted around the U.S. and abroad."

But when they aren't traveling the country—or the world—Minnesota Ice calls the Phillips Community Center its home.

"It was important to me that Minnesota Ice be a part of the larger Twin Cities community, which also is accessible to people of all backgrounds, which is why we chose the pool in the Phillips neighborhood," Paquin says. "The pool was part of a huge renovation project by the city of Minneapolis, and the pool was renovated in 2017-18. This summer, we will also be participating in Open Swim on Tuesday evenings at Lake Nokomis (for those interested in open water swimming and triathlon prep), as well as an outdoor pool practice at North Commons."

Minnesota Ice is open to anybody who wants to join regardless of background, gender, age, or anything else that makes you 100 percent you.

"Minnesota Ice is all-inclusive; it doesn't matter the age, sexual orientation, gender, or any other label—all are welcome," he says. "We also welcome our friends and allies! It doesn't hurt to know how to swim beforehand, though. We are not a 'learn-to-swim' program, so we strongly recommend that swimmers are able to swim at minimum 200 yards without stopping."

If you can swim, you can join! To learn more about Minnesota Ice Swim Club, visit www.mniceswimclub.com. Phillips Community Center is located at 2323 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404. ▮

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Two Creeks is open to members and guests from May to mid-October. Photo courtesy of Two Creeks

BY CHRIS TARBOX

Au naturale is en vogue at Two Creeks Clothing Optional Campground.

Do you ever have days where you just want to let it all hang out? Then you should take a gander at Two Creeks.

Located east of Sandstone, MN, Two Creeks Clothing Optional Campground is a private, 100-acre property for adults over the age of 21 who enjoy a camping experience where clothes aren't exactly necessary.

"We are of all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds," said Glen, one of the proprietors of Two Creeks. "Your social stature is not important at Two Creeks. Where you shop, what car you drive, where your kids go to school is of no concern. What is important is consideration for others and yourself."

This completely secluded campground, fully licensed by the state of Minnesota, is situated 90 minutes northeast of Minneapolis and St. Paul, where members can camp, socialize, participate in sporting activities, and enjoy potluck dinners. Membership is open to any adults, regardless of marital status, lifestyle, or sexual orientation. And although nudity is A-OK at Two Creeks, members are able to spend their time there in any level of dress, whether it's naked as a jaybird or completely clothed.

Two Creeks is open to members and guests from May to mid-October, and multiple multi-day events are hosted, such as Kinky Camp by and for Gay and Bisexual Men, a Mid Summer's Foam Party Weekend, Country Daze, a Luau Party, and Carnival de Kink.

Of course, there are rules for attending Two Creeks, such as being open-minded towards your fellow campgoers; always keeping a towel handy for hygienic reasons; no cameras or cell phones being allowed in the public sections of the campground; and most importantly, respecting the bodily autonomy of your fellow campgoers.

"These are the people of Two Creeks," read one Facebook testimonial, provided by Glen. "They won't tell you their life's story, and probably don't want to hear yours. They live for the moment, they've created the moment by being open and willing to share it with anyone. Will you fit in? If you can't find a comfortable place (or couple) there, you need to go for a walk and explore, they're there, and willing to share their moment with you!"

Continued on page 56

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Pride Weekend

Two Creeks Clothing Optional Campground is a private, 100-acre property for adults located 90 minutes northeast of the Twin Cities. Photo courtesy of Two Creeks

Two Creeks members can camp, socialize, participate in sporting activities, and enjoy potluck dinners, with or without the confines of clothing. Photo courtesy of Two Creeks

Two Creeks also offers modern shower and bathroom facilities, spaces for motor homes, electrical hookups, and rentable trailers, tents, and cabins, all at reasonable rates.

"If you love camping, and you love the freedom of this lifestyle, then this is the place for you," said Glen.

For more information on Two Creeks, their activities, directions, and more, visit 2creeks.com, or call Glen and Toni at 320-245-6803. ▮

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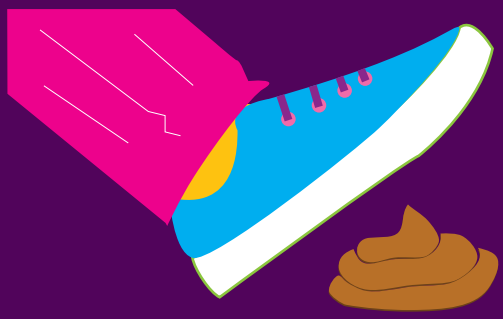

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Pride Weekend

The Black Hart is the successor to the legendary Town House gay bar in St. Paul's Midway district. Photo by Chris Tarbox

Hart & Goal

BY CHRIS TARBOX

The Black Hart of St. Paul aims to keep the spirit of The Town House alive.

The Black Hart has played host to numerous drag acts since it opened, such as Trisha Spectacle. Photo by Barb McLean Photography

When St. Paul's oldest GLBT bar closed down for good last summer, it seemed almost impossible for any successor to properly carry on its legacy. Indeed, when Holly Monnett sold the venerable Town House in 2018, many of its regulars were afraid of losing an integral part of the Twin Cities' queer community.

As a businessman looking to open a bar for soccer fans, Wes Burdine was well aware of the precarious position he was in.

"There are very few good hanging out places in Midway," said Burdine. "And I originally didn't approach The Town House because I thought, 'Man, I don't want to mess with what this place has.'"

Nonetheless, Burdine knew how important the space was to the GLBT community, and if he was to purchase The Town House from Monnett, he needed to maintain that very sense of community.

"I looked at other places and then eventually, when those fell through,

Continued on page 60

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I called up Holly out of the blue and gave her the short version. She was really into the idea," said Burdine. "She said, 'This is the phone call I've been waiting for.' Lots of people had approached her to buy the place: Dairy Queen, Starbucks."

"But you know, you spent years building something to see it torn down for a Starbucks? Is that what you're looking for?" Burdine continued. "So in that first conversation, I brought up the obvious, which is that this is the oldest gay bar in St. Paul. How do I do this plan and have it not displace people who have a home here, who feel very comfortable here?"

The space's close proximity to the new Allianz Field meant that it would be a prime spot for soccer fans to converge before, during, and after games, and while that meant that a lot of clientele would likely identity as straight, Burdine was adamant in maintaining a close connection to queer regulars of his predecessor.

"It took a long time to get the deal through," said Burdine. "Last year in March, it kind of got public and the sale didn't go through until August. But once I was kind of outed publicly, I spent a lot of time here. It was nice having that delay just drinking with people, because it was a lot of people who were rightfully concerned, and no matter what I could say on a Facebook post or whatever, no one would believe you. I can't properly explain to you what I want to do."

Burdine said that he spent a lot of time meeting with regulars and coming to drag shows several nights a week, engaging in conversation and hearing any concerns they may have, while reassuring them that The Black Hart would stay faithful to what The Town House created.

"I will say that the interactions I've had have been overwhelmingly positive," said Burdine. "Every week for the first four months, someone would walk up to me, and it was just literally the exact same experience. They'd say, 'Hi, I started coming here when I was 17 in 1970 or 1980 or 1990.' They all came in here (as) their first gay bar and they'd been here forever and they wanted me to know that."

Burdine said those initial six months of conversations gave him a chance to drastically change how he imagined the space.

The Black Hart hosts drag and burlesque nights on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Photo by Barb McLean Photography

"We specifically call it a 'queer Midway soccer bar'," said Burdine. "Those are the three people that we want, which is a pretty broad spectrum. But I want people to know that they're coming into a space that is that is different in a very good way. They'll encounter different kinds of people and that this has always been a very diverse bar. And we wanted to maintain that."

Indeed, while soccer is a major theme at The Black Hart, drag shows and burlesque are a regular presence. This weekend, The Black Hart will celebrate its inaugural Pride Weekend with shows by Red Hot Rascals and Xavier's Dragged Out, and Burdine has been thrilled with the positive overlap between his bar's soccer fans and GLBT regulars.

"Last month we had our first home game that lets out at 9 p.m. We've got a drag show an hour later. The bar fills up," said Burdine. "It was Barbara Gordon's Lip Service that night. Her shows are always very bizarre. And there's an act that she does with a pregnant Cher doing 'If I Could Turn Back Time'. And halfway through, the scene from Alien happens. And a puppet of Sonny (Bono) pops out of her stomach. They do a duet of 'I've Got You Babe', and then she puts him back in and finishes 'If I Could Turn Back Time', and the first time I saw it, my jaw dropped. And so this was a crowd of 250 people who just came from a soccer game."

"A good chunk of them have never seen the drag show before," Burdine continued. "I just watched the faces and literally just watching (spectators) be blown away. And the kind of energy that happens from that… You can't get that anywhere else. You're getting a lot of different people in there for way different reasons and they just want to have fun. They're really embracing what this bar is, which is inviting them into a way different experience. You can go to Buffalo Wild Wings after a game and chat it up with your brothers about the game. We want to create something unique, we want a gateway for both communities to come together."

For more information on The Black Hart of St. Paul and its calendar of events, visit www.blackhartstp.com. ▮

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Pride Weekend

Jeremy Hanson Willis is the new CEO of JustUs Health in Minnesota. Photo courtesy of JustUs Health

JustUs For Justice

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Jeremy Hanson Willis joins JustUs Health as chief executive officer, bringing with him several years in GLBT and HIV advocacy.

Continued on page 64

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With the combined resources and programs of Minnesota AIDS Project, Rainbow Health Initiative, and Training to Serve, there's little that JustUs Health can't do. From research and conferences to health services and education programs, JustUs Health provides endless care, support, and advocacy for the GLBT community and folks living with HIV/AIDS. Ready to lead the organization is the new CEO, Jeremy Hanson Willis, who is no stranger to GLBT and HIV advocacy and care.

Hanson Willis joined JustUs Health in April after previously serving as deputy commissioner for Gov. Mark Dayton, working with various nonprofits including Minnesota AIDS Project and the Minnesota Smoke Free Coalition, and working as a media relations and communications consultant for Mayor R.T. Rybak.

"All of my experience has given me insight and skills that bring great value to JustUs Health," Hanson Willis says. "My career was born in LGBTQ and HIV activism, so it's a dream to return to this work at such a critical time. As a supporter of Minnesota AIDS Project and Rainbow Health Coalition, I've found that the coming together of these organizations is happening at exactly the right time. The HIV epidemic is changing, LGBTQ health needs are changing; this is exactly the right thing at the right time."

Hanson Willis says the mission of JustUs Health is to achieve health equity for the people they serve, from people with HIV to the GLBT community.

"JustUs Health started by combining the services of all of the organizations under one umbrella: help people living with HIV to improve and maintain their health, train and consult with health care providers and senior care providers to make sure they have all the resources they need for LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, and support public policies that protect health of these people," he says.

Recently, JustUs Health started providing mental, sexual, and chemical health services through its new behavioral health clinic. With its new clinic, JustUs Health is hoping to serve younger clients in addition to its current mostly adult clientele. Since merging, JustUs Health has welcomed several therapists experienced working with youth.

A major component of the behavioral health clinic is chemical health. As Hanson Willis points out, the GLBT community is disproportionately affected by tobacco use. Since 2003, Hanson Willis has been involved in organizations working to eliminate tobacco use. As one of the founders of Tobacco-free Lavender Communities (TLC) of Minnesota, creating a tobacco-free environment has always been one of Hanson Willis' priorities. He was also involved in the first annual Fruit Bowl, which was held in 2007. This event was the first tobacco, drug and alcohol-free event at the Twin Cities Pride Festival. Just two years later in 2009, Rainbow Health Initiative held the first dedicated health and wellness area at Twin Cities Pride.

"This area brought the community together around health activities and provided a space for vendors that focused on health and wellness. This positioned the agency to begin helping other organizations implement Tobacco Free Outdoor Events and Ethical Sponsorship Policies in 2010. This work included nonsmoking policies and policies to stop partnerships with the tobacco industry," Hanson Willis says.

As a result of Hanson Willis' work with Rainbow Health Initiative, the Twin Cities Pride Festival became entirely smoke-free in 2011. Prioritizing the health needs of the GLBT community has continued into JustUs Health's mission after merging with Rainbow Health Initiative. Hanson Willis says first and foremost, he wants to work to build awareness, credibility, and trust in the communities they serve.

"The folks we represent in our work are a collection of disenfranchised populations, from people of color, HIV, substance abuse, and LGBTQ—often these are the populations that are forgotten and cast aside and don't have anyone to speak for them or fight with them," he says. "We need to be the organization that will. We need to be bold and unafraid."

Hanson Willis says Minnesota sees more than 300 new HIV infections every year, many of whom do not have adequate health insurance or stable housing. "We need to stand up for these people when the government and health care are not meeting their needs," he says. "We know from data we've collected that just about every health outcome you look at, the outcomes are lower among the LGBTQ community than the broader population. There's no reason for that. It doesn't need to be like that. Every part of the community needs to have access to their health care needs."

For more information about JustUs Health, visit justushealth.org or stop by one of their booths at your local Pride festival. ▮

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EVERYDAY DRAMA | BY JENNIFER PARELLO

The Will

"I've had it! I'm calling my lawyer and changing my will!"

That's how a close friend started a phone conversation this morning. I get an I'm-cutting-my-ungrateful-relatives-out-of-my-will call from her once a month.

I settled into a comfy chair with a cup of coffee, happily preparing to goad her into redlining her will. I know she'll never go through with it. But I enjoy watching her mentally reposition her meager assets like armies in a game of Risk. Each move is designed to create an emotional bulwark against the minor slights committed upon her by her nieces and nephews.

My friend and her husband are not Rockefellers. What they are is childless. If you manage to make it into your middle-age with a decent paying job, good health insurance, and no kids, you may as well be a Rockefeller. While your friends with kids are having their savings desiccated by their children's college tuitions, you're buying a boat.

My friend's nieces and nephews loved spending time with her when they were younger. Why wouldn't they? A few weekends a year, they would be plucked from a grim life of household chores and enforced soccer schedules, and transported to a kid-heaven of all-day ice cream and amusement parks.

But now that the kids are older, they no longer need their aunt and uncle to take them to Disney World. Instead, they are entertaining themselves with the messy adventures of young adulthood. My friends are hurt by their inattention. They were expecting some emotional payoff after all those years of drowning the kids in candy and screen time.

And that's why they're leaving all their money to their cats!

I used to be one of these childless folk. It was great! I had a boat! I would jet off to Europe for a weekend just to see an obscure performance artist. I wouldn't hesitate to upgrade to a business-class air ticket. "Treat yourself! Don't cheat yourself!" was my mantra.

Before I had stepkids, I'd take my nieces on extravagant trips and shower them with gifts, leaving the thankless task of tending to their everyday needs to their parents. I was treated as a conquering hero each time I breezed into their lives.

This past Christmas, my nieces requested an expensive gift to share. For the first time, I said no. My spouse's son had just started college. The younger son will need to go in a few years. Even as I type this, my throat is constricting at the thought of navigating this harrowing financial roadmap.

When I bounded into my stepkids' lives, I employed the same Santa Claus strategy that had worked so well on my nieces. But the vampiric demands of raising kids soon took its toll. I started fretting over utility bills and launched a monthly lecture series called "Cutting Back." No one wanted to attend my lectures. I was no longer the hero. That made me cranky because I love to be the hero.

The role of free-spending, fun-loving aunt suited me perfectly. Shrinking that bloated figure into the rigid armor of financial gatekeeper who scolds kids for forgetting to turn off lights has been a struggle.

I no longer have the luxury of using financial power plays to benefit or punish the people I love. I miss it, but there are payoffs. My nieces still adore me, even without the endless stream of gifts. And my stepkids are making an effort to turn off lights when they leave a room, which I have decided to take as a gesture that they care about me.

They're all staying in the will. Maybe. Unless I get a cat. ▮

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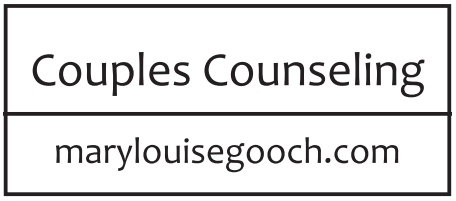

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STONEWALL

AN AMERICAN GLBT RIGHTS RETROSPECTIVE, PART 3 (2011-PRESENT)

After a long, emotional, and hard-fought battle, Minnesota's GLBT community was elated following the defeat of the anti-same-sex marriage amendment on Nov. 6, 2012. **[1]**

Change was in the air.

By the time the first decade of the 21st century came to a close, a definitive paradigm shift in regards to the GLBT rights movement in America was a surety. The landmark *Lawrence v. Texas* Supreme Court decision undid all remaining sodomy laws across the nation. The military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy was repealed. Individual states began legalizing same-sex marriage, with many more states' efforts to do the same in the works.

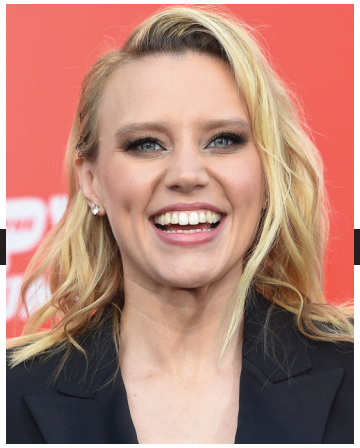
In July 2011, gay marriage was officially enacted in New York, while in September of the same year, DADT's repeal went into effect. Meanwhile, Minnesota had its own share of gay marriage drama in 2011, when the State Senate added a proposal for a constitutional amendment to the 2012 election ballot that, if passed, would definitively outlaw same-sex marriage in the state.

The ensuing grassroots campaigns for and against this amendment were passionate and fierce. Despite the efforts of conservative and religious backers of the amendment, the measure was ultimately defeated on Nov. 6, 2012, by 51 percent of Minnesota voters.

"The summer and fall leading up to the 2012

2011

September 20, 2011
"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" officially goes into effect, allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual troops to serve openly.



Kate McKinnon. Photo by BigStock/DFree

2012

April 7, 2012
Kate McKinnon becomes the first openly lesbian cast member in the history of *Saturday Night Live*.

On May 13, 2013, the Minnesota Senate passed a bill to legalize same-sex marriage with a 37-30 vote. [2]

amendment vote was stressful, and though the outcome was a relief, it all felt very tenuous," said Minneapolis filmmaker Pete Groynom. "It passed by such a small margin."

Nonetheless, still buoyed by the amendment's defeat, lawmakers in the Minnesota Legislature introduced a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in the state. On May 9, 2013, the Minnesota House passed the bill with a 75-59 vote. Four days later, with gay marriage supporters' cheers echoing throughout the State Capitol, the Minnesota Senate passed the bill with a 37-30 vote. One day later, Gov. Mark Dayton signed the bill into law. 43 years after Jack Baker and Michael McConnell made American history by applying for a marriage license together in Minneapolis, gay marriage was finally a reality in the North Star State.

"It was exciting and really hard to believe," said Groynom. "I'm still proud that Minnesota was ahead of the national curve on this issue. Meanwhile, it only took a few months for gay marriage to seem completely normal, which I think speaks volumes about how much of a non-issue it had been all along."

On the same day that Minnesota Amendment 1 was defeated, the states of Maine, Wash-

2012

November 6, 2012

Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin becomes the first openly gay person to be elected to the U.S. Senate; Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona becomes the first openly bisexual person elected to U.S. Congress.

Tammy Baldwin. Photo courtesy of United States Congress.

2012

October 4, 2012

Orlando Cruz becomes the first active professional boxer to come out as gay.

Gov. Mark Dayton signs the passed Minnesota same-sex marriage bill into law on May 14, 2013. [3]

ington, and Maryland became the first states in the nation to legalize gay marriage via popular vote. Around the same time that gay marriage became the law of the land in Minnesota, Rhode Island and Delaware did the same. On June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court declared that same-sex couples that were legally married were entitled to federal marriage benefits, effectively striking down a key section of the Defense of Marriage Act. That same day, California's Proposition 8 was deemed unconstitutional, allowing same-sex marriages in the state to resume.

By early 2015, an astounding 36 states—as well as Guam and Washington, D.C.— allowed same-sex couples to marry. By this point, the writing was on the wall, and in April 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court clearly took notice. The court began hearing arguments on whether or not the U.S. Constitution guaranteed same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry.

On June 26, 2015, a decision was made on the landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* case. In a 5-4 vote, *Baker v. Nelson* was overturned, and the decision required every state to recognize same-sex marriage. Gay marriage was legalized nationwide.

Fighting For Visibility

As jubilant and triumphant as the gay marriage victory was, it wasn't the end of the story. While marriage equality was a hard-earned win for the community, it was especially important for the community not to rest on its laurels. Equally as important was the fight for visibility among the various facets of the GLBT community.

"There is definitely a heightened level of visibility, but there's also a lot of conversations to be

2014

May 2014
Michael Sam becomes the first openly gay man to be drafted in the NFL.

2013

August 15, 2013
Darren Young becomes the first active professional wrestler in a national wrestling promotion to come out as gay.

Countless gay marriage supporters celebrate outside the Minnesota State Capitol as gay marriage is legalized on May 14, 2013. [4]

On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide after the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges case. [5]

had around erasure," said Eliza Edwards, a staffer at the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota. "I'm bisexual, and I came out in high school as a young bisexual woman right around when marriage equality was getting a real push in a legislative sense."

Edwards stated that during the campaign to defeat the marriage amendment, many of her bisexual and transgender friends were excluded from those conversations.

"When you're phone banking, for example, the scripts would actively exclude those communities and those words… because people would say, 'Oh, you're not ready. Those people out there aren't ready for you yet,'" said Edwards. "So that was something that also had a really big impact on me as a young person: not being able to see myself in the most visible spaces as somebody who is bisexual."

"I think that we are continuing to evolve as a community," said Lisa Vecoli, former Tretter Collection curator. "More people now are saying, 'I'm not this or that. I reject the binary. I'm more fluid.' The time that I spent at the University was a profound education for me, where young people are viewing sexuality and gender today just very differently from the way we viewed it 30 or 40 years ago."

Trans and nonbinary people in particular are still struggling to achieve the level of vis-

Laverne Cox. BigStock/kathclick

2014

October 30, 2014

Apple CEO Tim Cook comes out as gay, becoming the first openly gay CEO on the Fortune 500 list.

2014

June 9, 2014

Actress Laverne Cox becomes the first openly trans person to appear on the cover of *Time*; a couple months later, Cox becomes the first openly trans person to be nominated for an Emmy Award for acting.

Trans woman and activist CeCe McDonald became a symbol for the victims of transphobia after she was jailed for manslaughter, despite asserting that her actions were made in self-defense. She remains a staunch advocate for the rights of trans people. [6]

Michael Sam became the first openly gay NFL draft pick in history in 2014. [7]

ibility that their gay and lesbian counterparts have earned in recent years. According to a 2015 report by the American Medical Student Association, 19 percent of hate violence survivors identify as transgender, while 62 percent of trans people have reported suffering from depression, and 41 percent have attempted suicide. Trans people are also disproportionately incarcerated, with the same report stating that one in six trans people have been jailed in their lifetime.

"I don't think we need to be thinking about the words 'equity' or 'equality'," said Tretter Collection staffer Ray Barney. "I think we need to be looking at justice, and (remain) in tune with the pulse of who are the people most targeted by our systems of inequality and discrimination."

In 2011, trans woman and GLBT activist CeCe McDonald was charged with second-degree murder for stabbing a man after McDonald and her friends were assaulted outside of a Minneapolis bar. McDonald agreed to a second-degree manslaughter charge and was sentenced to 41 months in prison, but she was placed in two different men's prisons.

Despite the outcome of the case, McDonald became a symbol for the victims of trans bashing and hate crimes across the country, with many activists decrying McDonald's treatment and insisting that her actions were self-defense. McDonald was released from prison in early 2014 after serving 19 months. To this day, she remains an outspoken advocate for the rights of trans people, especially for trans people of color.

Another issue directly affecting trans people in the United States has been the introduction of so-called "bathroom bills", legislation that would force trans people to use public bathrooms based on the gender that they were assigned at birth. These bills were crafted on the assumption that their enactment would make cisgender people safer, although various legal and GLBT advocacy groups have argued that there have been no recorded instances of a trans person assaulting a cisgender individual in a public restroom.

Nonetheless, a number of states have introduced bathroom bills in their respective legislatures, with North Carolina signing the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act into law in 2016.

"I think we have to continue to work on all fronts and I think we have to continue to make sure that we bring everyone with us, so it can't be a movement that only succeeds for upper middle class gays and lesbians," said Vecoli. "It has to be a movement that succeeds for those who are the most vulnerable among us: the people that were at Dewey's and Compton's and Stonewall, who helped to make all this happen."

Indeed, while serious strides have been made in the decades since Stonewall, the harsh reality is that GLBT people, especially youth, are still at risk of isolation, violence, and discrimination.

"Sometimes (older GLBT people) want to express to me what they lived through, and they'll be like, 'Back in my day, if you were queer you'd

Caitlyn Jenner. BigStock/Starfrenzy

2015

April 2015

Olympic champion Caitlyn Jenner officially comes out as a transgender woman during an appearance on *20/20*.

get disowned by your parents,'" said Barney. "And I'm like, 'People ARE still getting disowned by their parents.' There's always more work to be done."

The Trevor Project, a national organization that offers crisis intervention to GLBT youth, reports that GLBT youth report higher rates of anti-queer harassment than straight youth, and that young people who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual have two to six times higher rates of suicide attempts compared to straight youth.

Queer youth are also at risk of being targeted for so-called "conversion therapy", a pseudoscientific practice that claims to be able to change a person's sexual orientation. Despite a lack of concrete or peer-reviewed evidence that conversion therapy actually works, only 17 states to date have outlawed the practice as it pertains to minors. Furthermore, an overwhelming consensus of the medical community argues that conversion therapy is a harmful, ineffective, and unethical practice.

"GLBT elders, young GLBT people, people of color, trans people, nonbinary people; we continue to have extraordinarily high rates of homelessness and suicide and all sorts of negative consequences for people who are living on the edge," said Vecoli. "I think the main thing is not to declare victory and go home and disengage, but to continue. We have to stay in the fight."

You've Got To Have Hope

The 2010s still managed to bear the fruit of hope for the GLBT community, especially in the world of politics, media, and even sports. While a number of professional athletes have come out of the closet post-retirement, many queer athletes have broken the glass ceiling while still active in their respective sports.

In 2012, Orlando Cruz became the first boxer to come out as gay while still in competition. In 2014, Michael Sam became the first openly gay NFL draft pick in history. Most famously, Olympic champion Caitlyn Jenner made history when she came out as a transgender woman in 2015.

In the media, GLBT individuals and projects no longer felt like a novelty. Television shows such as *Transparent*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Modern Family*, and *Broad City* brought greater exposure to queer themes on the small screen, while motion pictures such as *Moonlight*, *Call Me By Your Name*, *Carol*, and *Blue is the Warmest Color* gave audiences critically acclaimed, humanistic depictions of gay life on the big screen.

In the world of music, GLBT artists such as Frank Ocean, Lady Gaga, Sam Smith, Janelle Monáe, and Adam Lambert have enthralled fans worldwide as out and proud musicians in the same vein as Freddie Mercury, Elton John, or Melissa Etheridge.

And in American politics, the "firsts" kept coming: in 2012, Tammy Baldwin became the first openly gay individual to be elected to the

Critically acclaimed singer and actress Janelle Monáe has been beloved for her status as an openly bisexual GLBT rights activist. **[8]**

Obergefell. By jordanuhl7, CC BY 2.0.

2015

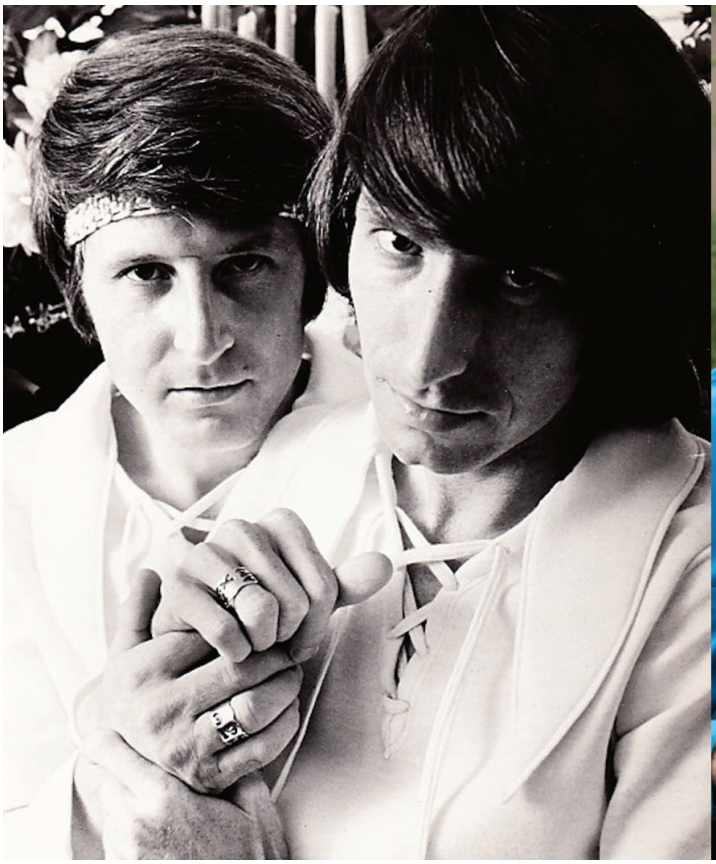
June 26, 2015

In *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples are entitled to the right to marry, legalizing gay marriage nationwide.

2015

July 27, 2015

The Boy Scouts of America removes its nationwide ban on openly gay employees.



After becoming the first American gay couple to apply for a marriage license in 1970, Michael McConnell and Jack Baker finally had their union validated in Minnesota in 2019. **[9]**

United States Senate; in 2018, Jared Polis of Colorado became the first openly gay person in American history to be elected governor; and in 2012 and 2019, respectively, two men made history when they became the first openly gay presidential candidate for their parties: Fred Karger for the Republican Party, and Pete Buttigieg for the Democratic Party.

Fifty years ago, this level of representation across all facets of public American life would have been unheard of. Slowly but surely, queer people across the nation were able to see their communities represented in ways some couldn't even imagine.

"I mean, me seeing people like Boy George is the most obvious example—for me in my generation anyway—of a public figure coming out and being openly gay," said Minneapolis DJ Jamez L. Smith. "It was validating and encouraging. Positive change is positive change."

Fighting For A Better Future

In June 1969, an epic demonstration of rebellion officially signaled the birth of the modern-day GLBT rights movement. In the five decades that have followed, the GLBT community celebrated unbelievable victories. The GLBT community has endured much hardship, and suf-

Pulse. Photo by Raimond Spekking, CC BY-SA 4.0.

2016

July 9, 2016
Mixed martial artist Amanda Nunes defeats Miesha Tate for the UFC Women's Bantamweight Championship, becoming the first openly gay champion in UFC history.

2016

June 12, 2016
A gunman kills 49 people at the Pulse gay club in Orlando, becoming one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

fered terrible tragedy. It's important to reflect on those who have fought, persevered, or died to ensure a promising future for the following generations.

"When someone tells me I'm history, I usually laugh and say, 'Yes, I'm so old that I am,'" said Mark Segal, founder of *Philadelphia Gay News* and witness of the Stonewall Riots. "But it's hard to wrap your mind around it. To me and others, it was something we believed in and did day-to-day as a way of life."

"When I came out in 1981, I used to keep a list of all the lesbians that I knew," said Vecoli. "And every time I met a new lesbian, I would add them to the list, and somehow for me that was my way of trying to establish that there were other women like me in the world, that there was the hope of a community. There was the hope of some kind of larger umbrella. And I kept that list until it reached 100."

Looking back, Vecoli said that it was surreal how much progress has been made since she started that list all those years ago, and she's admitted that she's learned a lot along the way.

"I'm eternally grateful to the young people who took the time to educate me and bring me along," said Vecoli. "So I owe it to them to try and make sure they're part of our agenda and part of our umbrella."

Hardships still remain. Even as we break more barriers, even as we gain more visibility, many in the GLBT community continue to suffer the indignities of discrimination, violence, and ostracism.

So as we cherish and celebrate this momentous 50th anniversary of Stonewall, a question remains: where do we go from here?

"I would love to see some real diversity of ideology, diversity of skin tone, diversity of the spectrum of genders," said Smith.

While all of the major strides made in the past 50 years are worth celebrating, there is still a lot of work left to be done to ensure equality, safety, and visibility for the GLBT community. [10]

"Pass the Equality Act," said Segal. "Remember that wedding cake issue? If we had the Equality Act, we would have won that case. Until we do, we are second-class citizens… the fight goes on."

"There needs to be increased access to economic opportunity and social support networks," said Groynom. "And expanded representation in mainstream culture remains vital."

"We need to work toward coming together and supporting one another," said St. Paul attorney Rebecca Heltzer. "We need to support other minority groups in their struggle for equity and fairness, and seek their support in ours. If you expect respect, dignity, and help from others, our community needs to show the same to those who are also struggling for equality."

"I think that history has a really large role to play in looking forward," said Edwards. "How can I look for it as a young person if I don't know the foundation and the grounds that I'm standing on? There're so many stories out there that I don't have a window (to look) into, because of the way that history has been linearized, and

2017 **February 26, 2017**
The drama *Moonlight* becomes the first GLBT-themed film to win Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

2017 **February 19, 2017**
Asia Kate Dillon's role on the Showtime drama *Billions* is the first main character in North American television history to identify as non-binary.

2018 **November 2, 2018**
The Freddie Mercury biographical drama *Bohemian Rhapsody* is released in theaters, eventually becoming the highest-grossing GLBT-themed film in history.

2018 **September 22, 2018**
The first citywide Bi Pride event in American history is hosted in West Hollywood.

displaced by people and devalued by others. So when I think about the next 50 years, my dream is that everybody will have access to those spaces."

"Everybody that I know in my life has lost people because of all of the violence that surrounds us in our everyday lives," Edwards continued. "And that is such a difficult reality to hold. And I think that makes imagining a future both really difficult, really painful, and also a really empowering moment, especially for young people, but also for our elders and for the people that are still here and are still alive and are still fighting to support us."

Stonewall, historic as it may have been, was never the beginning of the fight for equality. Fifty years later, the fight continues. And as we fight, we must also remember. We must remember the struggles and sacrifices of our queer sisters, brothers, and siblings that came before us. We must cherish the history they built for us.

We remember Marsha P. Johnson.
We remember Sylvia Rivera.
We remember James Baldwin.
We remember Christine Jorgensen.
We remember Barbara Gittings.
We remember Harvey Milk.
We remember Bayard Rustin.
We remember Pedro Zamora.
We remember Brandon Teena.
We remember Matthew Shepard.
We remember Jason Gage.
We remember Mollie Olgin.

We remember the victims of the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando.

We remember the nameless, the faceless, and the unsung heroes who fought back in Greenwich Village, many whose stories never got to be told. We remember those who were taken before their time by AIDS. We remember those who had their lives senselessly taken in acts of hatred. We remember the pioneers. We remember those who dared to be different. We remember those who risked everything to give this community a future worth living.

And it's our duty to pick up where they left off. Everyone under the rainbow deserves the right to live as their authentic self, without fear or shame, but with love and pride. Celebrate, slay, and sashay. It's time to get to work.

"People are full of surprise, even for themselves, if they have been stirred enough."
- James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*

[11]

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Jared Polis. Photo courtesy of Office of Congressman Jared Polis

2018

November 6, 2018
Jared Polis of Colorado becomes the country's first openly gay man to be elected governor; Sharice Davids of Kansas becomes the first openly gay Native American elected to U.S. Congress.